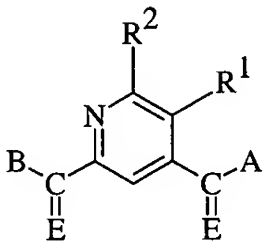
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (amended). A method for ~~inhibiting matrix metalloproteinase enzymes~~ treating osteoarthritis in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal an ~~MMP~~ MMP-13 inhibiting amount of a compound of Formula I



I

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

wherein:

R^1 and R^2 independently are hydrogen, halo, hydroxy, C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkoxy, C_2-C_6 alkenyl, C_2-C_6 alkynyl, NO_2, NR^4R^5, CN, or CF_3;

E is independently O or S;

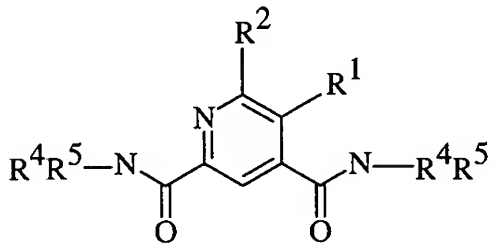
A and B independently are ~~OR^4 or~~ NR^4R^5, wherein R^4 is hydrogen and R^5 is $(CH_2)_n$(1,3-benzodioxolyl);

R^4 and R^5 independently are H, C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_2-C_6 alkenyl, C_2-C_6 alkynyl, $(CH_2)_n$ aryl, $(CH_2)_n$ cycloalkyl, $(CH_2)_n$ heteroaryl, or R^4 and R^5 when taken together with the nitrogen to which they are attached complete a 3- to 8-membered ring containing carbon atoms and optionally containing a heteroatom selected from O, S, or NH, and optionally substituted or unsubstituted;

n is an integer from 0 to 6.

Claim 2 (cancelled).

Claim 3 (amended). A method for ~~inhibiting matrix metalloproteinase enzymes~~ treating osteoarthritis in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal an ~~MMP~~ MMP-13 inhibiting amount of a compound of Formula III



III

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

wherein R^1 and R^2 independently are hydrogen, halo, hydroxy, C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkoxy, C_2-C_6 alkenyl, C_2-C_6 alkynyl, NO_2, NR^4R^5, CN, or CF_3;

R^4 and R^5 in R^1 and R^2 independently are H, C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_2-C_6 alkenyl, C_2-C_6 alkynyl, $(CH_2)_n$ aryl, $(CH_2)_n$ cycloalkyl, $(CH_2)_n$ heteroaryl, wherein each CH_2 is optionally substituted by one or more C_1-C_6 alkyl, or R^4 and R^5 when taken together with the nitrogen to which they are attached complete a 3- to 8-membered ring containing carbon atoms and optionally containing a heteroatom selected from O, S, or NH, and optionally substituted or unsubstituted;

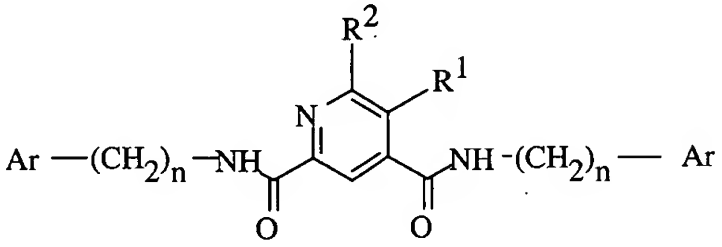
Each R^4 in Formula III is hydrogen;

Each R^5 in Formula III is $(CH_2)_n$(1,3-benzodioxolyl);

n is an integer of from 0 to 6.

Claim 4 (cancelled).

Claim 3 (amended). A method for ~~inhibiting matrix metalloproteinase enzymes~~ treating osteoarthritis in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal an ~~MMP~~ MMP-13 inhibiting amount of a compound of Formula V



V

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

wherein n is 1 ~~0 to 6~~;

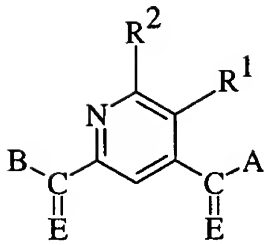
R^1 and R^2 independently are hydrogen, halo, hydroxy, C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkoxy, C_2-C_6 alkenyl, C_2-C_6 alkynyl, NO_2, NR^4R^5, CN, or CF_3;

R^4 and R^5 independently are H, C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_2-C_6 alkenyl, C_2-C_6 alkynyl, $(CH_2)_n$ aryl, $(CH_2)_n$ cycloalkyl, $(CH_2)_n$ heteroaryl, wherein n is 0 to 6, or R^4 and R^5 when taken together with the nitrogen to which they are attached complete a 3- to 8-membered ring containing carbon atoms and optionally containing a heteroatom selected from O, S, or NH, and optionally substituted or unsubstituted;

Each Ar is (1,3-benzodioxolyl) ~~independently aryl or Het, wherein aryl is phenyl or substituted phenyl;~~

~~Het is an unsubstituted or substituted heteroaryl group~~.

Claim 4 (amended). A compound of Formula I



I

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

wherein

R^1 and R^2 independently are hydrogen, halo, hydroxy, C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkoxy, C_2-C_6 alkenyl, C_2-C_6 alkynyl, NO_2, NR^4R^5, CN, or CF_3;

E is independently O or S;

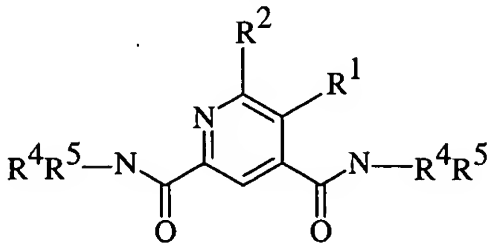
A and B independently are ~~OR^4 or NR^4R^5~~ $N(H)(CH_2)_n$(1,3-benzodioxolyl);

R^4 and R^5 independently are H, C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_2-C_6 alkenyl, C_2-C_6 alkynyl, $(CH_2)_n$ aryl, $(CH_2)_n$ cycloalkyl, $(CH_2)_n$ heteroaryl, or R^4 and R^5 when taken together with the nitrogen to which they are attached complete a 3- to 8-membered ring containing carbon atoms and optionally containing a heteroatom selected from O, S, or NH, and optionally substituted or unsubstituted;

n is an integer from 0 to 6.

Claim 7 (cancelled).

Claim 8 (amended). A compound of Formula III



III

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

wherein R^1 and R^2 independently are hydrogen, halo, hydroxy, C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkoxy, C_2-C_6 alkenyl, C_2-C_6 alkynyl, NO_2, NR^4R^5, CN, or CF_3;

R^4 and R^5 in R^1 and R^2 independently are H, C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_2-C_6 alkenyl, C_2-C_6 alkynyl, $(CH_2)_n$ aryl, $(CH_2)_n$ cycloalkyl, $(CH_2)_n$ heteroaryl, wherein each CH_2 is optionally substituted by one or more C_1-C_6 alkyl, or R^4 and R^5 when taken together with the nitrogen to which they are attached complete a 3- to 8-membered ring containing carbon atoms and optionally containing a heteroatom selected from O, S, or NH, and optionally substituted or unsubstituted;

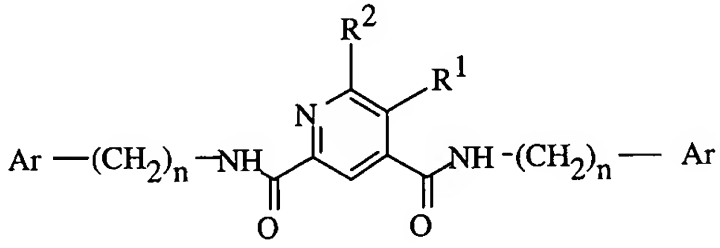
Each R^4 in Formula III is hydrogen;

Each R^5 in Formula III is $(CH_2)_n$(1,3-benzodioxolyl);

n is an integer of from 0 to 6.

Claim 9 (cancelled).

Claim 10 (amended). A compound of Formula V



V

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

wherein n is 1 ~~0 to 6~~;

R^1 and R^2 independently are hydrogen, halo, hydroxy, C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkoxy, C_2-C_6 alkenyl, C_2-C_6 alkynyl, NO_2, NR^4R^5, CN, or CF_3;

R^4 and R^5 independently are H, C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_2-C_6 alkenyl, C_2-C_6 alkynyl, $(CH_2)_n$ aryl, $(CH_2)_n$ cycloalkyl, $(CH_2)_n$ heteroaryl, wherein n is 0 to 6, or R^4 and R^5 when taken together with the nitrogen to which they are attached complete a 3- to 8-membered ring containing carbon atoms and optionally containing a heteroatom selected from O, S, or NH, and optionally substituted or unsubstituted;

Each Ar is (1,3-benzodioxolyl) ~~independently aryl or Het, wherein aryl is phenyl or substituted phenyl;~~

~~Het is an unsubstituted or substituted heteroaryl group~~.

Claim 11 (cancelled).

Claim 12 (original). A pharmaceutical composition, comprising a compound of Claim 8, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent, or excipient.

Claim 13 (cancelled).

Claim 14 (original). A pharmaceutical composition, comprising a compound of Claim 8, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent, or excipient.

Claim 15 (cancelled).

Claim ~~16~~ 9 (original). A pharmaceutical composition, comprising a compound of Claim ~~10~~ 6, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent, or excipient.

Claim ~~17~~ 13 (amended). A pharmaceutical composition, comprising a compound of ~~Claim 11~~ Claim ~~36~~ 12, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent, or excipient.

Claim ~~18~~ 10 (amended). A method for ~~inhibiting an MMP-13 enzyme~~ treating osteoarthritis in an animal, comprising administering to the animal an MMP-13 inhibiting amount of a compound of Claim ~~1~~ 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claims 19 and 20 (cancelled).

Claim ~~21~~ 11 (original). A method for treating osteoarthritis, comprising administering to a patient in need of treatment an effective amount of a compound of Claim ~~8~~ 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claims 22-35 (cancelled).

Claim ~~36~~ 12 (new). A compound named pyridine-2,4-dicarboxylic acid bis-[(1,3-benzodioxol-5-ylmethyl)-amide].